

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 09993 041647Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----096928 041659Z /46

O 041623Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4687
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9993

EXDIS

JERUSALEM FOR ATHERTON AND S/S

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PINT IS EG
SUBJ: BAR LEV ON SADAT

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH POL COUNSELOR TODAY (AUG 4)
MK HAIM BAR LEV WHO IS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LABOR
PARTY, FORMER IDF CHIEF OF STAFF AND SHARP CRITIC OF THE
GOVERNMENT, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS ON EFFECTS IN ISRAEL OF
RECENT HARDENING OF SADAT'S POSITION: (A) IT HAS STRENGTHENED
HAND OF HARDLINERS AND MAJORITY OF ORIENTAL JEWS WHO,
WHILE MOVEMENT IN THE PEACE PROCESS WAS CONTINUING WERE
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 09993 041647Z

PREPARED TO GO ALONG, BUT WHO HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT
SADAT DID NOT TRULY WANT PEACE; (B) IT HAS FACED THE
ISRAELI PUBLIC WITH A BALD CHOICE, EITHER WITHDRAW TO NEAR
THE '67 LINES OR KEEP ALL OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. THERE
SHOULD BE NO DOUBT WHICH ALTERNATIVE ISRAEL WILL CHOOSE;
(C) IT HAS TOTALLY UNDERCUT THE POSITION OF MODERATE ELE-
MENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND ESPECIALLY THAT OF SHIMON PERES

AND THE LABOR PARTY WHO HAVE ARGUED THAT THE SADAT IN
BOUDOIR CONVERSATIONS WAS THE REAL SADAT; IN LIGHT OF SADAT'S
RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS, SUCH AN ASSERTION
IS NOW IMPLAUSIBLE; (D) THROUGH THIS ACTION, SADAT
HAS DONE MUCH TO CLOSE DOWN THE DOMESTIC DEBATE IN ISRAEL
AND RALLY THE COUNTRY BEHIND BEGIN.

2. COMMENT: SAD BUT TRUE. LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
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